

2012 - JCR Evaluation Form

SPECIES: White tailed Deer

PERIOD: 6/1/2012 - 5/31/2013

HERD: WD504 - SOUTHEAST WYOMING

HUNT AREAS: 16, 55, 57, 59-64, 70, 73-81, 83, 161

PREPARED BY: MARTIN HICKS

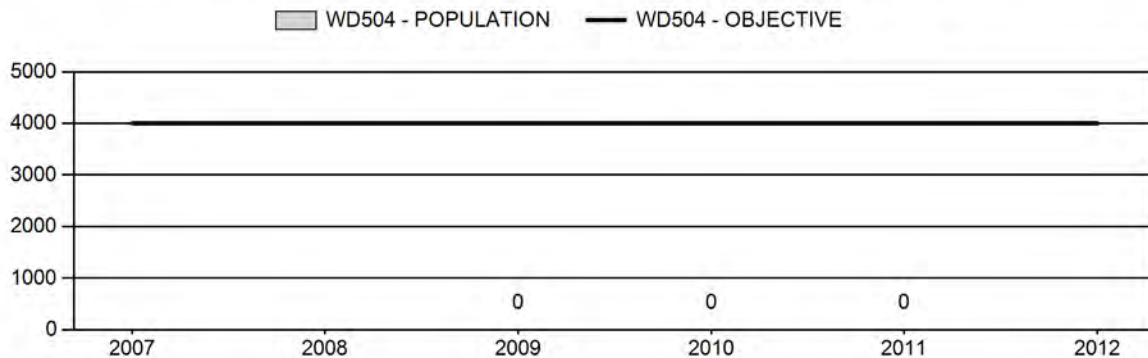
	<u>2007 - 2011 Average</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013 Proposed</u>
Population:	0	N/A	N/A
Harvest:	618	885	915
Hunters:	1,858	2,108	2,155
Hunter Success:	33%	42%	42 %
Active Licenses:	1,965	2,356	2,400
Active License Percent:	31%	38%	38 %
Recreation Days:	7,050	8,092	8,200
Days Per Animal:	11.4	9.1	9.0
Males per 100 Females	42	40	
Juveniles per 100 Females	70	55	

Population Objective:	4,000
Management Strategy:	Recreational
Percent population is above (+) or below (-) objective:	N/A%
Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend:	0
Model Date:	None

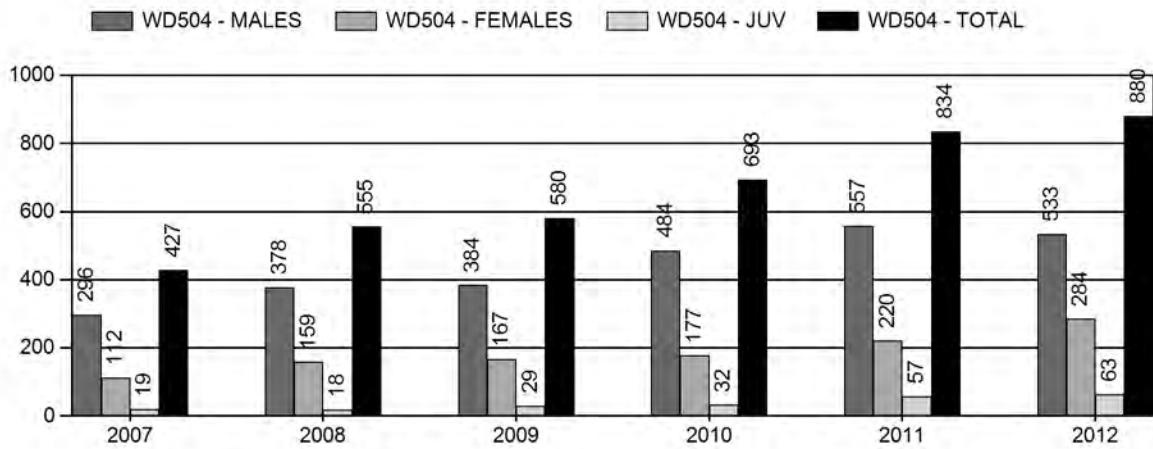
Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):

	<u>JCR Year</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Females \geq 1 year old:	NA%	NA%
Males \geq 1 year old:	NA%	NA%
Juveniles (< 1 year old):	NA%	NA%
Total:	NA%	NA%
Proposed change in post-season population:	NA%	NA%

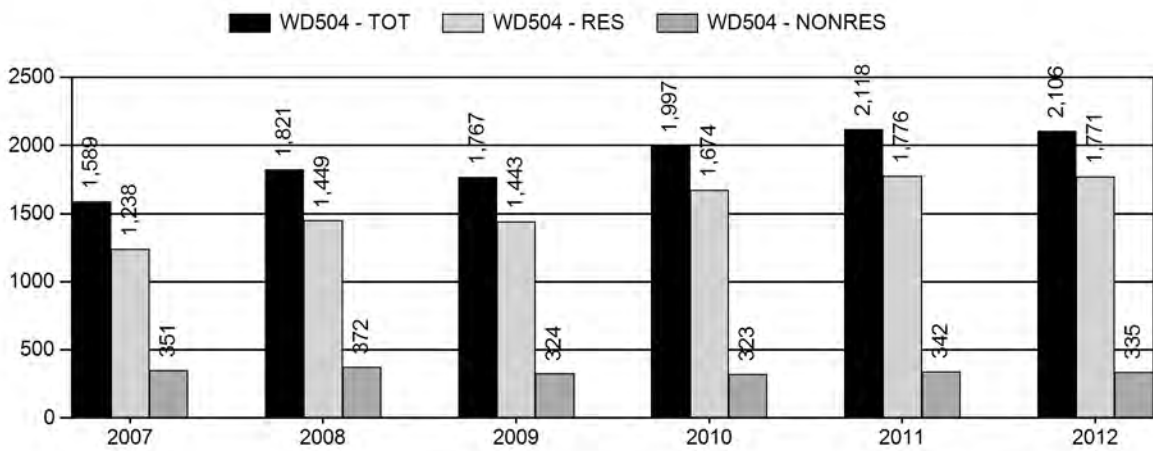
Population Size - Postseason



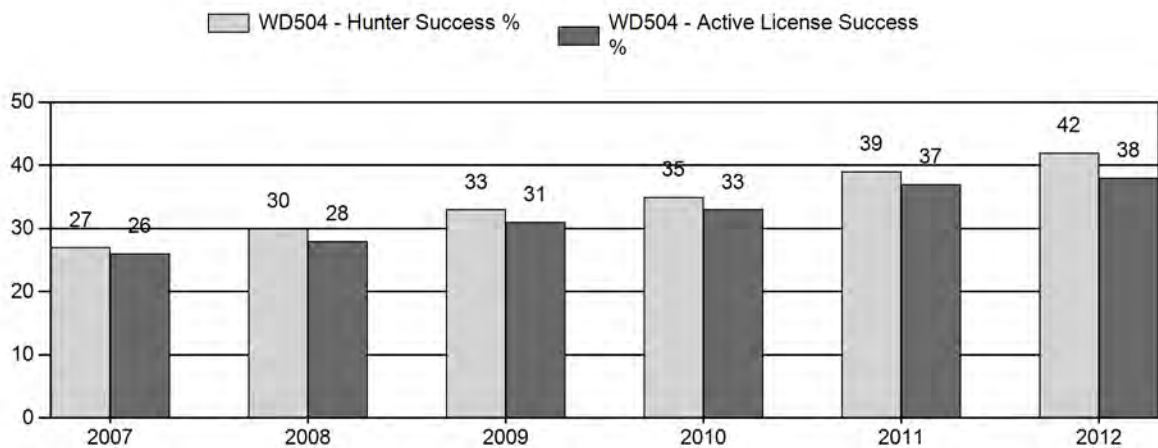
Harvest



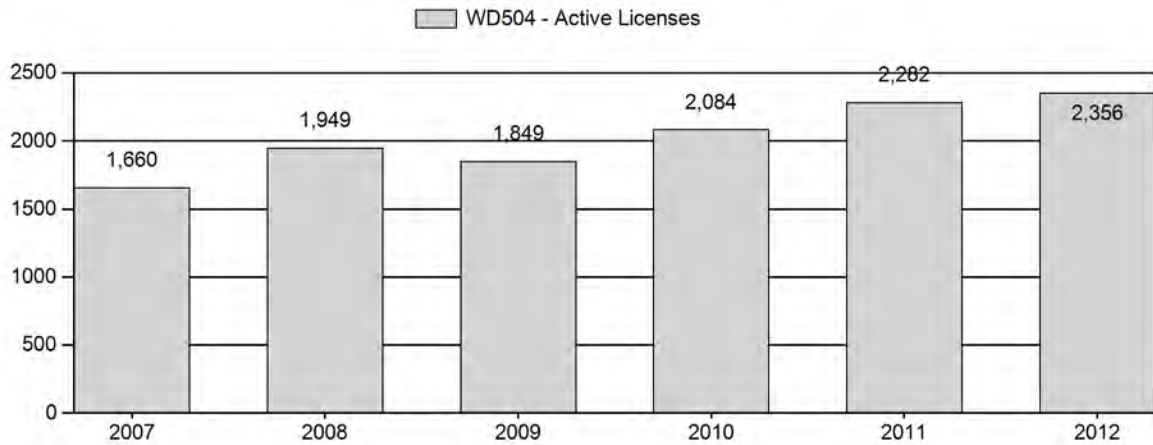
Number of Hunters



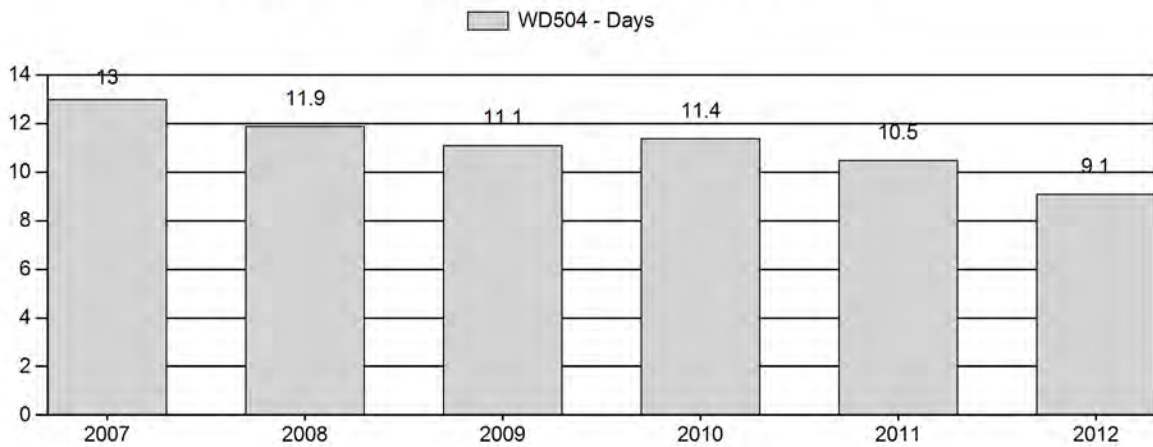
Harvest Success



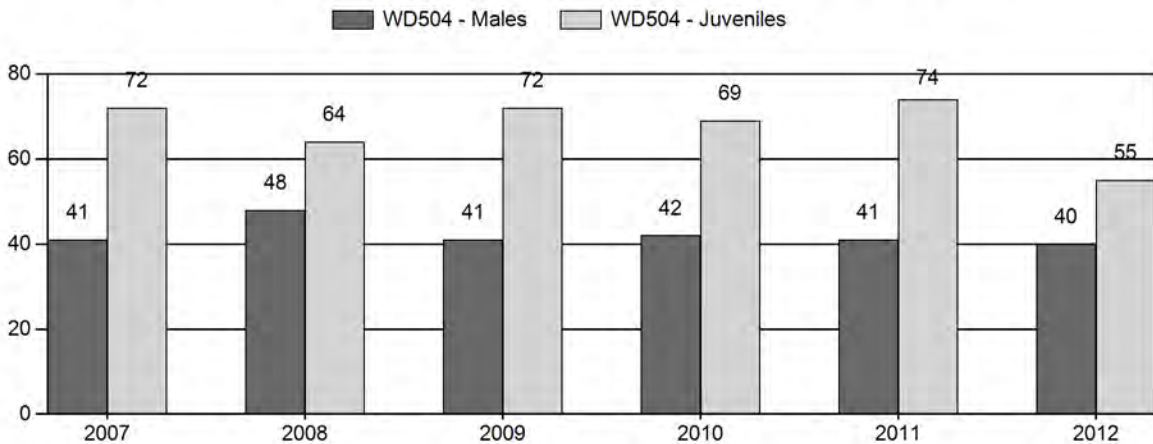
Active Licenses



Days per Animal Harvested



Postseason Animals per 100 Females



2007 - 2012 Postseason Classification Summary

for White tailed Deer Herd WD504 - SOUTHEAST WYOMING

Year	Post Pop	MALES				FEMALES		JUVENILES		Tot Cls	Cls Obj	Males to 100 Females				Young to		
		Ylg	Adult	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%			Ylng	Adult	Total	Conf Int	100 Fem	Conf Int	100 Adult
2007	0	43	92	135	19%	330	47%	236	34%	701	950	13	28	41	± 0	72	± 0	51
2008	0	65	105	170	23%	351	47%	224	30%	745	0	19	30	48	± 0	64	± 0	43
2009	0	50	96	146	19%	358	47%	257	34%	761	0	14	27	41	± 0	72	± 0	51
2010	0	38	72	110	20%	265	47%	183	33%	558	1,165	14	27	42	± 0	69	± 0	49
2011	0	54	148	202	19%	497	47%	367	34%	1,066	1,070	11	30	41	± 0	74	± 0	53
2012	0	37	92	129	21%	307	50%	179	29%	615	1,088	12	30	42	± 0	58	± 0	41

2013 HUNTING SEASONS
SOUTHEAST WYOMING WHITE-TAILED DEER HERD (WTD504)

Hunt Area	Type	Dates of Seasons		Quota	Limitations
		Opens	Closes		
16,55	3	Nov. 1	Nov. 30	150	Limited quota licenses; any white-tailed deer
		Dec. 1	Dec. 31		Unused Area 16,55 Type 3 licenses valid for doe or fawn white-tailed deer
	8	Nov. 1	Dec. 31	150	Limited quota licenses; doe or fawn white-tailed deer
57	3	Nov. 1	Nov. 30	75	Limited quota licenses; any white-tailed deer
	8	Nov. 1	Dec. 31	75	Limited quota licenses; doe or fawn white-tailed deer
59,60,62,63 64	3	Nov. 1	Nov. 30	150	Limited quota licenses; any white-tailed deer; all lands within Curt Gowdy State Park, archery only; the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission's Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille (Sybille Wildlife Research Unit) south of Wyoming Highway 34 shall be closed
		Dec. 1	Dec.31		Unused Area 59, 60, 62, 63, 64 Type 3 licenses valid for doe or fawn white-tailed deer in Area 63 and Area 64
	8	Nov. 1	Dec. 31	75	Limited quota licenses; doe or fawn white-tailed deer; all lands within Curt Gowdy State Park, archery only; the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission's Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille south of Wyoming Highway 34 shall be closed
70, 74,75,76,77	3	Oct. 1	Nov. 30	25	Limited quota licenses; any white-tailed deer
78,79,80, 81, 161	3	Oct. 1	Nov. 30	25	Limited quota licenses; any white-tailed deer
	8	Sep. 1	Dec. 15	25	Limited quota licenses; doe or fawn white-tailed deer
Archery		Sep. 1	Sep. 30		Refer to Section 3 of this Chapter.

Hunt Area	Type	Quota change from 2012
16,55	8	+50
57	8	+25
59,60,62-64	3	-50
70, 74-77	3	-25
Total	3	-75
	8	+75

Management Evaluation

Current Management Objective: 4,000

2012 Post-season Population Estimate: Unknown

2013 Post-season Population Estimate: Unknown

Herd Unit Issues

The management objective for the Southeast Wyoming Herd Unit is a post-season population objective of 4,000 white-tailed deer. The management strategy is recreational management. The objective and management strategy were last revisited in 1999. A review will take place in 2015.

This is a large herd unit that has the ability to expand at a rapid pace, but has experience disease outbreaks during years of high deer densities and dry weather. EHD, a hemorrhagic disease that is spread by Culicoides gnats has been documented in the population at least eight times (1967, 1988, 1992, 1993, 1998, 1999, 2001 and 2012). The effects of this disease can be devastating to white-tailed deer populations, as was the case this year. Up to 50% fewer white-tailed deer were observed during post-season classifications, particularly within the Laramie, North Laramie, Sybille and Platte drainages. The majority of occupied habitat falls within private land ownership. As densities increase harvest opportunities increase as well. There has been an increase in doe/fawn seasons as well as the addition of a Type 8 license. There have been no major landscape changes since the last JCR.

Weather

Weather during 2012 was extremely dry with above normal temperatures. The winter of 2010 did receive higher snow accumulations than normal with colder temperatures (refer to Appendix A for detailed weather data). Unlike mule deer, white-tailed deer typically are not as negatively affected by weather patterns. There was an outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) in within Hunt Areas 55 and 64, which have the highest densities of white-tailed deer. The observed sample size collected in November decreased by 50% of the norm. Refer to the following websites for weather data: (websites: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/time-series/> and <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/prelim/drought/pdiimage.html>).

Habitat

There are no established habitat transects developed for this herd since their main source of diet comes from native rangelands that have been converted to croplands. The reader is referred to the 2012 Strategic Habitat Plan Annual Report for further habitat information within the Laramie Region (http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/Departments/Wildlife/pdfs/SHP12_AR_LARAMIEREGION0004110.pdf).

Field/Harvest Data

This herd will grow rapidly until densities become too high, then seasons are adjusted to try and bring the population down or an EHD outbreak occurs that reduces densities. Hunter success is typically around 35% with hunter effort running about 12 days per harvest. Hunting opportunity is limited to private land. Low success and high effort rates are contributed to hunters trying to find a white-tailed deer on public land or trying to harvest a deer during the general season when they are less vulnerable to harvest. Chronic wasting disease is found throughout the herd unit but to what extent it has on this herd unit is unknown. The long-term prevalence rate average is around 20%, but with a small sample size. Results from a study in Hunt Area 65 are scheduled to be published in the near future. There are a limited number of tooth samples so a reliable inference into population performance is not available.

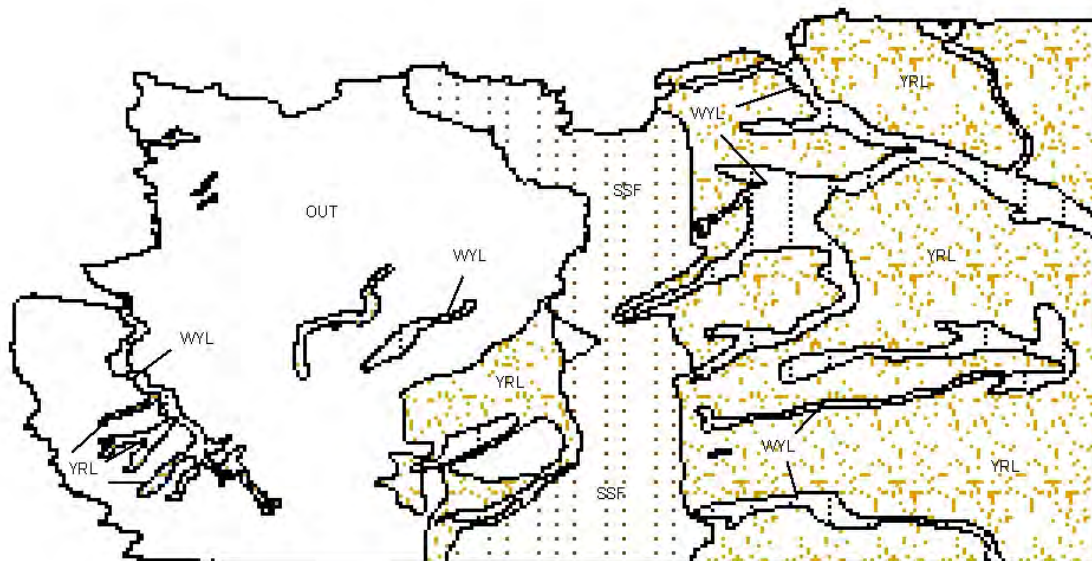
Population

There is not a reliable post-season population estimate. This is an open herd with Colorado and Nebraska so trying to model this herd would violate the assumption that it is closed. Seasons are designed to provide opportunity during the mating period when male deer are more vulnerable to harvest. Management is driven primarily by local Department personnel perception of population trend and landowner tolerance for this species. There is not enough tooth samples collected in the field to infer any population dynamics. The hunter satisfaction survey showed that 64% of the hunters were either satisfied or very satisfied, which is plausible given the late season opportunity for male deer. Population trend varies on weather conditions and disease outbreaks. As densities become too high, the population will typically crash from an EHS outbreak. Severe winter conditions will also reduce white-tailed deer numbers if they go into the winter in poor condition. There were reports of landowners finding dead white-tailed deer after spring storms in April, 2013.

Management Summary

Seasons are designed to provide opportunity and reduce damage. The EHD outbreak in 2012 prompted a decrease in the Type 3 licenses within the hunt areas that have the higher densities of white-tailed deer. Type 8 licenses will remain the same or slightly increase to try and reduce the herd, even with the EHD outbreak. Doe/fawn licenses are warranted to minimize damage.

For the 2013 we will try to attain a harvest of around 850 white-tailed deer. Our objective is to provide opportunity and minimize damage.



White-tailed Deer (WT504) - Southeast Wyoming
HA 16, 55, 57, 59-64, 70, 73-81, 83, 161
Revised 10/99

